

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Previously presented) A group III nitride compound semiconductor device of a successively laminated structure, comprising:
  - a substrate;
  - a buffer layer formed directly on said substrate;
  - an intervening layer formed directly on said buffer layer, said intervening layer comprising  $\text{In}_X\text{Ga}_{1-X}\text{N}$ , where  $0 < X < 1$ ;
  - a light-emitting layer formed directly on said intervening layer, said light-emitting layer comprising  $\text{In}_Y\text{Ga}_{1-Y}\text{N}$ , where  $0 < Y < 1$ ; and
  - a p-type clad layer formed directly on said light-emitting layer,wherein a first In composition ratio of said intervening layer, X, changes from a first interface with said buffer layer to a second interface with said light-emitting layer, such that, said first In composition ratio, X, at said second interface becomes substantially equal to a second In composition ratio, Y, of said light-emitting layer.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Previously presented) A group III nitride compound semiconductor device of a successively laminated structure, comprising:
  - a substrate;
  - a buffer layer formed directly on said substrate and having a buffer layer lattice constant;
  - an intervening layer formed directly on said buffer layer, said intervening layer comprising  $\text{Al}_a\text{Ga}_b\text{In}_{1-a-b}\text{N}$ , where  $0 < a < 1$ ,  $0 < b < 1$ , and  $a + b < 1$ ; and
  - a light-emitting layer formed directly on said intervening layer, said light-emitting layer comprising  $\text{In}_Y\text{Ga}_{1-Y}\text{N}$ , where  $0 < Y < 1$ , and having a light-emitting layer lattice constant,wherein composition ratios of at least Al and In of said intervening layer change from a first interface with said buffer layer to a second interface with said light-

emitting layer, such that, a first lattice constant of said intervening layer at said first interface is lattice-matched to said buffer layer and changes to a second lattice constant at said second interface, which is substantially equal to said light-emitting layer lattice constant.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously presented) A group III nitride compound semiconductor device according to claim 3, wherein said composition ratios of at least Al and In of said intervening layer change continuously in a direction toward said light-emitting layer from said first interface with said buffer layer, so that, a band gap at said second interface of said intervening layer is wider than a band gap of said light-emitting layer.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously presented) A group II nitride compound semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein said buffer layer comprises  $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$  ( $0 \leq x \leq 1$ ).

8. (Previously presented) A group II nitride compound semiconductor device according to claim 3, wherein said buffer layer comprises  $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$  ( $0 \leq x \leq 1$ ).

9. (Previously presented) A group II nitride compound semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein said first In composition ratio of said intervening layer, X, at said first interface equals 0.01 and said first In composition ratio, X, at said second interface is substantially equal to a second In composition ratio, where  $Y = 0.15$ , for said light-emitting layer.

10. (Currently amended) A group II nitride compound semiconductor device according to claim 3, wherein said composition ratios of said at least Al and In of said intervening layer change from 0.34 for Al and 0.33 for In at said first interface with said

buffer layer to 0.11 for Al and 0.28 for In at said second interface with said light-emitting layer.

11. (Previously presented) A group III nitride compound semiconductor device according to claim 3, wherein said composition ratios of at least Al and In of said intervening layer change discontinuously in a direction toward said light-emitting layer from said first interface with said buffer layer, so that, a band gap at said second interface of said intervening layer is wider than a band gap of said light-emitting layer.

12-17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously presented) The group III nitride compound semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein said p-type clad layer consists of GaN.

19. (New) The group III nitride compound semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein said p-type clad layer comprises an ungraded p-type clad layer.

20. (New) The group III nitride compound semiconductor device of claim 18, wherein said GaN layer comprises an ungraded GaN layer.

21. (New) The group III nitride compound semiconductor device of claim 3, wherein a p-type clad layer is formed directly on said light-emitting layer.

22. (New) The group III nitride compound semiconductor device of claim 21, wherein said p-type clad layer consists of GaN.

23. (New) The group III nitride compound semiconductor device of claim 21, wherein said p-type clad layer comprises an ungraded p-type clad layer.

24. (New) The group III nitride compound semiconductor device of claim 22, wherein said GaN layer comprises an ungraded GaN layer.

25. (New) A group III nitride compound semiconductor device of a successively laminated structure, comprising:

- a substrate;

- a buffer layer formed directly on said substrate and having a buffer layer lattice constant;

- an intervening layer formed directly on said buffer layer, said intervening layer comprising  $\text{Al}_a\text{Ga}_b\text{In}_{1-a-b}\text{N}$ , where  $0 < a < 1$ ,  $0 < b < 1$ , and  $a + b < 1$ ;

- a light-emitting layer formed directly on said intervening layer, said light-emitting layer comprising  $\text{In}_Y\text{Ga}_{1-Y}\text{N}$ , where  $0 < Y < 1$ , and having a light-emitting layer lattice constant; and

- a p-type clad layer formed directly on said light-emitting layer,

- wherein said p-type clad layer comprises an ungraded GaN layer, and

- wherein composition ratios of at least Al and In of said intervening layer change from a first interface with said buffer layer to a second interface with said light-emitting layer, such that, a first lattice constant of said intervening layer at said first interface is lattice-matched to said buffer layer and changes to a second lattice constant at said second interface, which is substantially equal to said light-emitting layer lattice constant.